

## MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS

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A few press reports have not accurately reflected Secretary Perry's comments on the possible length of the U.S. military involvement in the Rwanda effort.

During Dr. Perry's "Face The Nation" interview on Sunday, July 31, he responded to the question, "How long will America's forces be involved here (Rwanda)?"

Answer: "First of all, the humanitarian operation that's going on here may take a year or two years for the international scope of it. I want to emphasize that this is an international operation. It's being done by many countries - Germany, France, Fins, the Belgians. All are contributing to the relief operation here. This is being managed out of the UNHCR, the refugee organization in the United Nations. There are many non-governmental organizations, both U.S. and European, who are working here. They will be here, I believe, well over a year.

"Now, the United States' role in this is not to conduct these humanitarian relief operations. It's to provide that specialized logistics support which only the United States military has -- the massive airlift and the specialized equipment we have. Now, I would expect that aspect of the operation to be over much sooner than that. I can't give you a precise estimate on that, but we're certainly not talking a year."

As additional emphasis on this point, Dr. Perry today reiterated his position with the following statement:

"The international humanitarian relief effort for the Rwanda tragedy could go on for a year or more. The U.S. military role in this operation which is providing emergency logistics support should be for a considerably shorter time period. In fact, we expect the need for military airlift, our primary contribution, to phase down in a few weeks as supplies and equipment from the relief organizations start to arrive through normal commercial transportation means."

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